

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lang et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,903,280). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lang in view of Terry et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0002519).

§ 102(b) Rejection (Lang) - Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected based on the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the present Office Action. Applicant traverses this rejection at least based on the following reasons.

A brief description of Lang is as follows.

Lang is directed to a circuit arrangement for serial data transmission between a plurality of subscriber stations via a data bus with transmitters that are high-impedance in the passive condition and low-impedance in the active condition. The leads of the data bus are each connected to a voltage source via a resistor and at least one evaluation device for evaluating the voltages carried by the two leads is provided. The circuit arrangement is particularly suitable for utilization in remote control devices. *See Abstract of Lang.*

With respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that Lang does not disclose or suggest at least, “the first device outputs a sending request output for providing notification of a state of a communication request from the first device to the second device as a sending request signal using an open collector buffer and also turns back its sending request output inside the first device to check a communicable state as a sending request input inside the first device,” and “the second device outputs a sending permission output for providing notification of a communicable state from the second device to the first device as a sending permission signal using an open collector buffer and also turns back its sending permission output inside the second device to

check a communicable state as a sending permission input inside the second device,” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner cites col. 2, lines 11-32, col. 6, lines 35-41, col. 6, lines 52-62, col. 8, lines 53-61, and col. 9, lines 15-29 of Lang as allegedly satisfying both of the above-identified features of claim 1.

Even though Lang discusses half-duplex communications, nowhere does Lang disclose or suggest at least turning back a sending request output signal inside a first device and/or turning back a sending permission output signal inside a second device, as described in claim 1. Lang does not teach or suggest these particular features. At least since the above-discussed features are not satisfied by Lang, Applicant submits that Lang does not anticipate claim 1.

§ 103(a) Rejection (Lang/Terry) - Claim 2

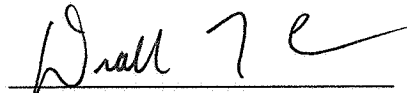
First, Applicant submits that dependent claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1. Terry does not make up for the deficiencies of Lang.

The Examiner acknowledges that Lang does not disclose the features of claim 2, however the Examiner alleges that Terry makes up for the deficiencies of Lang. However, nowhere does Terry disclose or suggest at least, “time respectively varying with respect to the two devices is randomly determined by a program of a microcomputer,” as recited in claim 2. The Examiner states that a DSP in Terry is programmed to arbitrate the transmission of data packets depending on clock rate imposed by a control unit 72. However, while the transmission of data in Terry is directly related to the clock rate, claim 2 describes that the time that varies with respect to the two devices is randomly determined. Therefore, since the randomly determined time of claim 2 is not taught or suggested by Terry, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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